

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 SS-15 NSC-05 /073 W
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R 091746Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5781

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 00248

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BELGIAN PRESS COMMENT ON US CONCORDE HEARINGS

INFLUENTIAL FLEMISH DAILY DE STANDAARD
OF JANUARY 7 MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS ABOUT U.S. HEARINGS ON
CONCORDE: QUOTE IT IS NO SECRET THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT--
LED BY FORD AND KISSINGER -- IS OPPOSED TO A LANDING BAN, IF
ONLY SO AS NOT TO ANTAGONIZE THE EUROPEAN ALLIES. FORD ALSO
WANTS TO PREVENT SUSPICION FROM GROWING, ESPECIALLY IN
FRANCE -- WHOSE MIRAGE ALREADY MISSED THE QUOTE DEAL OF
THE CENTURY UNQUOTE -- THAT THE CONCORDE IS BANNED BECAUSE
IT HAS NO AMERICAN COUNTERPART. HOWEVER, THE SUSPICION OF
AMERICAN PROTECTIONISM, UTTERED MORE THAN ONCE IN THE FRENCH
PRESS, SOUNDS RATHER SOUR. THE HEART OF THE MATTER IS THAT
FRANCE AND THE U.K. HAVE BEEN PUMPING FOR TEN YEARS MONEY
INFO A PLANE WHICH NOBODY WANTS. THE CONCORDE MAY BE
CALLED A TECHNOLOGICAL MIRACLE; THE MARKET RESEARCH
THAT PRECEDED IT DIFITELY ISN'T. THE LUFTHANSA
MANAGER RECENTLY SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE THE PLANE
EVEN FREE. MOREOVER THE QUESTION REMAINS OF WHETHER IT
IS MORALLY DEFENSIBLE FOR GOVERNMENTS TO INVEST
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TENS OF BILLIONS IN AN EXTREMELY ELITIST MEANS OF

TRANSPORTATION LIKE THE CONCORDE OF WHICH ONLY NINE
COPIES HAVE BEEN SOLD SO FAR DESPITE P.T. BARNUM-STYLE
ADVERTISING. UNQUOTE. FIRESTONE

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